

Trussell-Winchester Adobe  
412 West Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County  
California

HABS No. CAL-239

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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412 West Montecito Street  
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REPORT

Prepared by David Gebhard, August 1965

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, October 1960

SOUTH ELEVATION (Front)  
DETAIL OF ENTRANCE (South Elevation)  
DETAIL OF WINDOW  
LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE (West Wall)

SKETCH OF PLAN by David Gebhard, August 3, 1965

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## Part I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Trussell-Winchester Adobe 9-
- B. Location: 412 West Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- C. Present Owner: Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara, California
- D. Present Occupant: Santa Barbara Historical Society
- E. Present use: Historical house, open to the public.
- F. Brief Statement of Significance: A representative example of how mid-19th century architectural taste of the eastern United States was expressed through the use of adobe construction. The original occupant of the house, Captain Horatio Gates Trussell, was an important pioneer figure in late 19th century Santa Barbara history.
- G. Physical History:
1. Original and subsequent owners: Captain Horatio Gates Trussell, 1854-1878; William H. Eddy, 1878-1882; Miss Sarah Winchester, 1882-1884; Dr. Robert F. Winchester, 1884-1929; Mrs. Katherine Bagg Hastings, 1929-1955; Santa Barbara Historical Society to present.
  2. Date of erection: 1854
  3. Architect: It would seem likely that local tradition is correct in ascribing the design of this house to Capt. Trussell himself. Trussell had originally been trained as a ship's carpenter, and although he did not practice the trade of carpenter or contractor after he moved to Santa Barbara, he did design and build his second house (a wood frame structure, now destroyed), and it is recorded that he supervised the construction of the Packard adobe (a large winery building; also no longer in existence).
  4. Original Plans, Construction, etc.: None known. The original high pitched gable roof section of the house, together with the shed roof section to the rear, was built of adobe; the porch and the small entry-store room at the southeast corner, also part of the original house, were of wood; sheathed in wood clapboard. Many of the timbers used in the roof, floor and for mill work were salvaged from the ship Winfield Scott, which had been wrecked on Anacapa Island in 1853.

5. Notes on Alterations: In a photograph of the house, probably taken in the early 1880's, there is no evidence of the present west wing. In its place there was an outside wood stair case leading to a low attic door placed in the gable end. This same photograph indicates that the present west door from the small library to the sun porch and the west door of the kitchen were both originally designed as windows. The placement of three posts along the south and west side of the sun porch would seem to argue that the sun porch was at first an open porch and then was later enclosed. The bath, closets and wood deck to the east were added at a later date. The western-most windows in the north wall of the kitchen, the glass exterior door of the passage and the long window of the dining and one of the bed rooms would certainly appear to be twentieth century additions.
6. Important Old Views:  
Photograph, ca. 1880's published in Goleta Citizen September 26, 1963.  
Photographs, ca. 1880's, Collection, Santa Barbara Library, nos. 472 and 473.  
Panoramic view of Santa Barbara, ca. 1887;  
Collection, Santa Barbara Historical Society.
7. Historical Events concerned with Structure:  
Captain Horatio Gates Trussell was born in Orland, Maine. He came to California as the first officer of a sailing ship which traded with the Hawaiian Islands. Trussell arrived in Santa Barbara in the early 1850's and married Ramona Burke. About a year after they built the adobe house. They lived in the adobe house until 1878 when Trussell built himself a two story wood frame house, north of the old adobe house. The original house was sold at this time to William H. Eddy and then in 1882 to Miss Sarah Winchester an early school teacher in Santa Barbara. The house continued to be owned by members of the Winchester family, and in 1955 it was bequeathed to the Santa Barbara Historical Society by Mrs. Katherine Bagg Hastings, a niece of Sarah Winchester.
8. References: California State Historic Landmark, No. 559.  
Cullimore, Clarence, Santa Barbara Adobes, Santa Barbara, 1948, pp. 144-149.

Goleta Citizen, August 3, 1963  
September 26, 1963

Noticias (published by the Santa Barbara Historical Society) Vol. 2, No. 3, July-September, 1956, pp. 6-7.

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## 8. (cont.)

Plans and Planting Committee, Community Arts  
Association of Santa Barbara, Old Adobes of  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, 1947, pages unnumbered.

Santa Barbara News Press

December 24, 1939

August 17, 1942

June 2, 1943

May 5, 1956

May 15, 1956

October 13, 1957

## Part II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Trussell-Winchester Adobe  
Address: 412 West Montecito Street, Santa Barbara,  
Santa Barbara County, California.
- B. Number of stories: one
- C. Type of Construction: Central section of the house, including rear lean-to of adobe; gable ends of roof of central section of house of wood frame; also east wall of wood frame; sheathed in wood clapboard. To the front of the adobe central section is a porch and at the southeast corner a closet-passage way off the bedroom. West wing wood frame; northeast wing wood frame; both sheathed in vertical board and batten.
- D. Plan (which see): Main section of house consisted of five rooms; across the front under the main gable, were (from west to east) a library, a living room and a bedroom. To the rear, under the shed roof, was a kitchen, a central passage and a room used either for dining or as a bedroom. The later west wing contained a sun porch on the south, two closet-passages, a small bath and small rear porch and wood deck. At the northeast corner of the house is another addition housing a bath and three closets.
- E. General Statement: Architectural Interest.  
The general visual quality of this house is that of a small mid-nineteenth century New England frame house. The plan of the central section, two rooms deep is quite unusual, as is the arrangement of the living room, which operates as a living-hall in the center of the house. The front facade, with its four shuttered windows two to each side of the door, has a formal quality which is seldom experienced in the usual adobe structure.
- F. General Statement: Condition of the Fabric. The wood floors and the lower wood wall sections of this house are in poor condition. The adobe walls and the wood shingled roof appear to be excellently preserved.
- G. Detailed Description--General.  
To date, there are no descriptions of the house as it was originally built. The earliest views (photographs of the early 1880's) show the house with its adobe lean-to to the rear, the front porch and the small passage-closet off the southeast corner of the bedroom. The west wing of the house containing the sun porch and service area to the rear may have been added before the turn of the century; although it is unlikely that the sun porch was glassed in much before 1900-1910. The wood board and batten addition at the northeast corner, having a bath and closet, together with the wood deck was added later, although the exact date of

construction is not known. The horizontal kitchen window, the glass exterior door of the passage and the large dinind room window were added during the 1920's or after.

- H. Overall dimensions: 53' 2" x 27' 6"; west wing 10' 8" x 29' 1"; porch and passage-closet: 6' 6" x 42' 6"; northeast addition 10' 2" x 14' 6".
- I. Foundations: Stone rubble under both adobe and wood frame walls (although much of the wood floor lies directly on the ground).
- J. Wall construction: Central section: exterior adobe wall: 1' 8" thick; interior adobe walls: 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 11"; all walls plastered exterior and interior; wood structure: end wall of main section of house on east side: wood frame; plastered interior, sheathed in horizontal clapboard, exterior.
- K. Porches, decks: Front porch: 35' 6" x 6' 6"-- 6" tongue and groove flooring on 6" x 2" joists, 24" centers; northwest kitchen deck 3' 7" x 10' 8"; 6" tongue and groove flooring on 2" x 4" joists; east deck, 7' 2" x 15'; 6" tongue and groove flooring on 2" x 4" joists.
- L. Chimneys: One brick chimney, probably original with house; serving the living room fireplace and the kitchen stove.
- M. Openings: Doorways-- Front door to living room, simple undecorated wood molding around deep splayed opening (1' 8"); front door, with upper double glass, and two lower wood panels appear to be original, as do most of the four panel doors within the house.
- N. Openings: Windows-- All of the older windows are 12 paned double hung and have hinged adjustable exterior wood shutters.
- O. Roof: Main section of house: Gabled; axis runs east and west; rear of house, shed roof of low pitch; east side of main section of house covered with half-hipped roof, which in the front continues the low pitch of the porch roof. West addition covered with similar half-hipped roof. All covered (originally) with wood shingles.
- P. Roof: Cornice and Eaves: Undecorated facea board across gable end ; at eaves of roof: roof decking and roof rafters exposed on exterior.
- Q. Roof: Dormers and Cupolas: none

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- R. Floor plan: see accompanying plan.
- S. Stairways: none
- T. Flooring: 6" tongue and groove fir and pine throughout house; floor joists 2" x 6" on 24" centers (where visible)
- U. Wall and Ceiling Finishes: Lime plaster on adobe and on wood lath.
- V. Interior doorways and doors: All original doors are of the four panel type.
- W. Interior trim: all woodwork undecorated.
- X. Hardware: exterior, mounted locks, white glass handles and the butt hinges would seem to be original.
- Y. Lighting: No indication of original method of lighting house.
- Z. Heating: Fire place, west wall of living room; cast iron stove in kitchen.
- AA. Site: General: The house located on the flat coastal plain of Santa Barbara faces onto the harbor (to the south). The house was obviously planned and built after the 1852 survey of Santa Barbara, which superimposed the grid iron plan on the older irregular Spanish settlement. Montecito street, upon which the house faces has become a major thoroughfare within the city, and it will probably be widened in the near future.
- BB. Orientation and General Setting.: With the exception of the enclave represented by the Trussell-Winchester adobe, the Fernald house and the Hunt-Stambach house (all historic houses), the general area of this part of Santa Barbara has become commercial: i.e. gas stations, retail stores and motels. To the west, there are still residences, several of which are maintained in excellent condition.
- CC. Enclosures: The wood picket fence running parallel to Montecito street is shown in the 1880's photograph of the house. How much of the present fence dates from this period is conjectural.
- DD. Outbuildings: two story wood barn situated to northwest of house (unpainted).
- EE. Walks and driveways: The present brick walks around the house are all recent. The driveway which enters from Montecito street to the west of the house is likely original (although not its present asphalt covering).



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FF. Garden: The front garden has been restored by the Historical Society. Few if any of the present plants, shrubs or trees date back into the 19th century.

David Gebhard  
August 3, 1965

APPROVED:

*Charles S. Pope*DATE: *November 16 1965*

Charles S. Pope, AIA  
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Western Office, Design and Construction  
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